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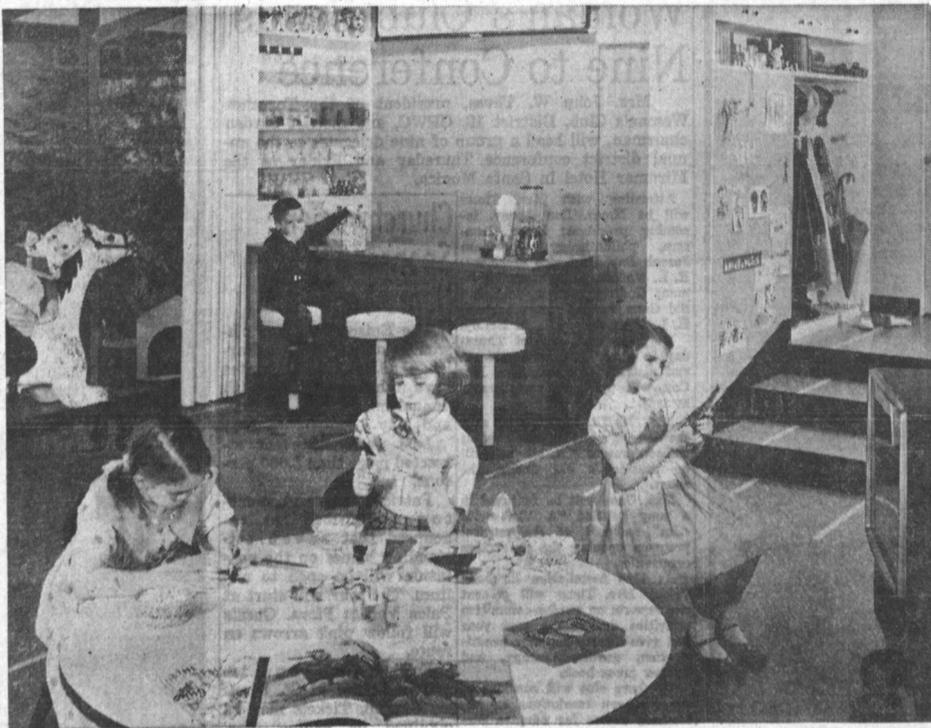
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ROOM FOR MORE—With built-in snack bar, this is a play room on rainy days and a family room any time. An acoustical ceiling confines noise, and well-lighted work area permits children to concentrate. Bulletin board is situated at the door.

Furnishing Home for Children Is Problem for Every Parent But Armstrong Finds Way

How to furnish a home with children in mind: Here's a problem that every parent must face, and the sooner the better.

It's a good idea to begin feathering the nest before the tots are a-toddling. That way, all the furnishings will have been chosen for safety, durability and easy care before the children are able to put them to a real test.

Both adults and children can enjoy life in an atmosphere that gives the Little People plenty of room for freedom yet doesn't keep Mom tied to a mop handle. Armstrong Cork Company's Bureau of Interior Decoration suggests these ten guideposts for achieving comfort, without sacrificing style, in the home with young children:

1. Give children a room of their own. Usually, this will be the child's bedroom; but it could be a basement or attic recreation room. Having his own area stitches the child more firmly into the fabric of the home. It gives him space for entertaining his friends, a place of privacy and of pride. And it helps him develop his sense of responsibility.
2. Include adequate work space. Your children will never in their lives be more imaginative than they are now. Encourage their drive for self-expression. The young child's room should contain a small, well-lighted table for writing and clay modeling, and a bulletin board for pin-up projects. (This is also the best way to keep the living room walls from becoming a three-year-old's version of an art gallery.)
3. Take advantage of the modern "care-free" furnishings now available. Choose fabrics and upholstery that wipe clean. Curtains that need no ironing. Washable vinyl wall coverings. Avoid the frilly-frilly pieces that seem to hold a special attraction for animal cracker crumbs, and the fabrics that can be ruined by jelly-smearing fingers.
4. Because floors take a particular beating with children around, select them for durability as well as for decoration. Sheet-type vinyl and linoleum floors are especially suitable for the child's room, because they can be installed virtually without seams. If Dad is a do-it-yourselfer, vinyl-asbestos tile is a good choice. All three floors are dustless and splinter-free. They never need refinishing. Since they can be easily whisked clean with a damp mop, they also provide a sanitary surface to play on.
5. Make it easy for the child to imitate grown-ups. He's eager to learn, and imitation is one of the best teachers. In the bathroom, a small step-stool will permit him to use the lavatory. If the hooks in his closet are low enough for him to reach, he will soon learn to hang up his own clothes. The child should have certain shelves and other storage space reserved for his use, along with furniture that is sealed to his size.
6. Use built-ins to utilize space effectively in the child's room. But remember that he won't always be a baby. Be sure the built-ins can be adapted for use later. For example, the open shelves on which he stores his toys can be used later as book shelves.
7. "Sound-condition" noisy parts of the house with an acoustical ceiling. Noise seems to be an indispensable element in the growing-up process, and sound-absorbent ceilings in the children's room will keep the sounds of juvenile jollity from disturbing other areas of the home. Acoustical tiles also serve as a permanent cure for cracked plaster ceilings. They're not expensive, and can be installed by the home handyman with his pint-sized helper.
8. Consider the safety of the child first; that way, the safety of most of your furnishings will be taken care of automatically. Just for now, put away the fragile heirlooms and the top-heavy tables. Any electric wire is a temptation at teething time, so coil the excess and tape it to the bottom of the lamp or appliance. Load chests and dressers with the heaviest items in lower drawers, and they'll be less likely to tip over.
9. For a soft-surface floor covering in the child's room, choose rom rugs with multiple advantages. Deltex-type fibre rugs, for example. The open weave of fibre rugs doesn't harbor dust, an important consideration when childhood allergies are met. These rugs are reversible and exceptionally durable, and they can be cleaned right at home with the suds of a detergent. Most important, they are lowest in cost of all woven floor covering. Even if a fibre rug is stained beyond repair there's no real catastrophe, since the rug wasn't expensive to begin with.
10. Furnish the child's room for his own comfort—not just for appearance. Within reason, he can even take a part in the room's decoration. Budding ballerinas, cowboys and circus performers are likely to be most content in rooms that reflect their own interests. It's easy and rewarding to find accessories that fill the room with the child's own personality.

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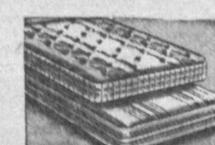
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